

## NASP Corry Station celebrates opening of new youth center

By Janet Thomas  
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School age military children will find plenty to keep them busy when the \$5.1 million NASP Corry Station Youth Center, Bldg. 4118, opens May 2.

The 11,000-square-foot center, which can accommodate 125 children, includes four colorful activity rooms, a teen center and a homework technology center along with an outdoor playground and a covered recreation/basketball area. It is located on Children's Lane near the Navy Exchange complex on Highway 98.

NASP Commanding Officer Capt. Christopher Martin and other officials got an early look at the newly completed center during a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 21.

Martin was impressed with the interior design of the building and the outdoor recreation options that are available.

"This is an awesome facility," he said.

Jack Reed, operations officer for Naval Air Station Pensacola's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR), agreed.

"This is a great facility, not only for the warfighter but for their family members as well," Reed said. "It really encompasses what MWR and the Navy is all about."

The new facility will also benefit younger children, Martin said, because the NASP Corry Station Child Development Center (CDC) next door will be able to reconfigure the previously shared space and increase its ability to care for children ages newborn to 5 years.

The five-year project was collaboration between the general contractors Whitesell-Green and NavFac. The project was funded by Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) non-appropriated funds construction (NAFCon) with NavFac oversight.

Linda Delaney, director of NASP's Navy Child and Youth Programs (CYP), said school age children have been sharing space

at the CDC since 1997, so it is exciting to see them get a space that belongs just to them. She also hopes the facility will become a good hang out spot for teens.

Trudy Corbin, a contracting officer based at NASP, said members of the CYP team were consulted at every step, but the needs of the children were the first priority during the planning process.

The goal was to make the building unique.

“We wanted to get the bright colors in,” Corbin said. “We wanted to make sure that the designer knew that we were not going for typical military or hospital-cut corners. We wanted to make sure that when the kids came in they felt comfortable and they had their own space.”

Billy Whitesell, vice president of Whitesell-Green, said the cooperative environment had a positive effect on the project.

“Everybody is on the same team and we get it done,” he said. “It just came out great. It is totally custom built.”

The building also qualified for Silver Leed (Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design) certification, Whitesell said. The U.S. Green Building Council awards LEED certification based on efficient use of resources.

Martin praised the efforts that were put into this project, and encouraged all of those involved to keep up the good work.

“The work that you do with our children is absolutely critical,” he said.